



LEAF & BRANCH COLLECTION: Crews will be running daily routes through April 19 to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup will continue through October. Please pile branches in front of the property. Heavier logs and stumps will be picked up every Friday. Visit highland.in.gov for route maps. **QUESTIONS?** Call Public Works at (219) 972-5083.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2019



Highland artist Liz Mares (above) uses the 50-lb fiberglass owl as a blank canvas to showcase her artwork and creativity.

OWL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Highland – the same town that began the public art movement in Northwest Indiana with the Downtown Ducks – is stepping up to become a major part of an effort to make another feathered friend the darling of Lake and Porter counties.

Although owls are typically solitary creatures, Highland resident Pat Popa is hoping it will be a parliament of painted owls that grace businesses, schools and downtowns throughout the region this summer.

The Humane Indiana board member is the creative genius behind the art effort to raise money for the shelter and clinic in Munster as well as services and education at its Wildlife Education Center in Valparaiso.

“We are adding sponsors nearly every day,” said Popa who has also been delivering the 4-foot critters to local artists commissioned to give every wise owl its own personality. “It’s exciting to see this project take flight.” 🦉

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to participate, please visit humaneindiana.org or call (219) 513-8911.

HUMANE HEROES

Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak and Animal Warden Mike Lambertino have long advocated for creatures – both large and small.

Humane Indiana honored the duo as 2019 Humane Heroes for partnering with the shelter/clinic to care for the town’s feral cats and place them in the Return to Field program.

“Highland has made great strides in animal welfare. It’s been a priority of the Town Council and the police department,” Chief Pete Hohnicki said. “We could never have done it without their great work.”

TOWN SIGNS NEW 4-YEAR REPUBLIC WASTE DEAL

Given two options from Republic Services, the Sanitary Board accepted a bid for solid waste services that is 16 percent higher than the current rate.

The increase reflects the state of the solid waste industry, particularly the volatility of recyclables markets.

An import ban on recyclables in China coupled with tariffs the Chinese government enacted on North America are the most recent hits the solid waste industry has taken, losses waste haulers are now passing along to local communities.

As a way to mitigate the impact of industry-imposed increases, Public Works Director John Bach said the new contract separates solid waste from recycling charges, which will be adjusted on the anniversary date of the contract as recycling costs rise or fall.

The alternate bid would have increased costs in the first year by 21 percent. A board decision to reject that proposal will save more than \$97,000 during the first year of the contract. 🦉

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Sanitary Board will develop proposed residential rates for solid waste collection, which will be followed by a public hearing.

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports: Of the 258 million tons of waste Americans generated in 2014 more than 89 million tons were recycled and composted.

HELP ONE OF OUR OWN!

Family and friends of Craig Witkowski are hoping for an outpouring of support from the community to help the 33-year-old raise the \$50,000 necessary for a stem cell transplant — his one hope of halting the progression of multiple sclerosis he developed in 2010.

The family will host a fundraiser for the Highland resident from 3-6 p.m. **APRIL 28** at Lincoln Community Center.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children ages 6-10. Children five and under are free.

INFO: Comment on Facebook at Miracle for Craig to reserve tickets. You can also donate on GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/6w74blc.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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EARLY PRIMARY VOTING BEGINS APRIL 9

A decision by Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson to consolidate polling places in Lake County means seven fewer locations to vote in Highland. The new polling configuration begins just in time for the May 7 primary.

Across the county, the precinct map has been reduced from 523 polling places to 364. As part of the consolidation, all polling locations with fewer than 600 voters were combined with neighboring polling places to create voting locations that have about 1,000 registered voters.

Michelle Fajman, director of the Lake County Board of Elections, said the board tried to make the changes as efficient as possible for the 90,000 countywide voters whose smaller polling places are affected by the consolidation.

President Steve Wagner said the council is getting the word out to reduce confusion May 7.

"This is a great opportunity for all voters to become familiar with their voting locations," Wagner said. "Residents impacted by the change should receive notices from the election board detailing where they should go to vote." 🐦

LOCATIONS & HOURS

The Lake County Board of Elections offers early voting at its Crown Point location and 10 additional satellite locations, including this Highland location:

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK SOCIAL CENTER
8554 Indianapolis Boulevard, Highland

- ✓ **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays**
April 9 through May 3
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✓ **Thursdays**
April 11, 18, 25 and May 2
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturdays**
April 27 and May 4
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ✓ **Final Monday**
May 6
9 a.m. to noon

INFO: For the latest voter information, including additional satellite locations and hours, please visit the Lake County Board of Elections at lakecountyin.org.

NEW POLLING PLACES

The new polling configuration — highlighted in blue — begins with the May 7 primary. Here's a look at Highland's precincts and where voters should report:




PRECINCT LOCATION

3, 4	Lincoln Social Center 2450 Lincoln St. PCT 1 now votes in 4 PCT 2 now votes in 3
5	Highland Fire Station 2647 45th St.
6, 10	Johnston Elementary 8220 5th St. PCT 7 now votes in 6 PCT 17 now votes in 10
8	Highland Presbyterian 8727 Delaware St.
9, 21	Warren Elementary 2901 100th St.
11	Town Hall 3333 Ridge Road

PRECINCT LOCATION


12, 16	Gloria Dei Lutheran 3711 Ridge Road
15	Merkley Elementary 9340 5th Street PCT 22 now votes in 15
19, 23	Southridge Elementary 9221 Johnston St. PCT 13 now votes in 19
20	Meadow Park Garage 9400 Southmoore Ave.
24	Faith Church 8910 Grace St.
25, 26	Immanuel United 2201 Azalea Dr. PCT 18 now votes in 25
Note:	There is no PCT 14

EVERY DAY SHOULD BE... EARTH DAY



Show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycle where you can.

PARK PRIDE DAY



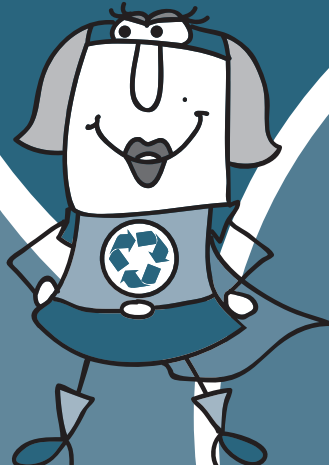
Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 18th annual community park cleanup day from **9 a.m. to noon APRIL 27**. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for cleanup. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at Main Square Park to receive your free T-shirt and lunch.

INFO: Individuals and groups must register for the event at Lincoln Center. For more information, please call (219) 838-0114.

SPRING CLEANUP

Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 14** to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.



DRUG RECYCLING

Turn in unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. APRIL 27** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.



TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION ON THE HORIZON

Members of the Tree Advisory Board are working to make Highland a Tree City USA. During the last two years, the Town Council adopted a tree care ordinance, created a community forestry program and appointed a tree advisory board.

The final step to qualify as a Tree City USA will be an Arbor Day observance and proclamation April 26 at Warren Elementary School.

Major benefits of becoming a tree city:

- Reduce costs for energy, stormwater management and erosion control.
- Cut energy consumption by up to 25 percent. As few as three additional trees planted around each building in the U.S. could save \$2 billion annually.
- Boost property values. Properly placed trees can increase property values up to 20 percent. 🌳

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Join the Tree Advisory Board as well as town and school officials for an Arbor Day celebration featuring a proclamation, tree presentation, poster contest winner and tree planting. All students will receive their own seedling.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m. April 26

WHERE: Warren Elementary School, 2901 100th Street

TUMBLEBEAR GYMNASTICS

Registration opens **APRIL 9** for our spring Tumblebear Gymnastics classes. Please wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes. No jeans!

PARENT-TOT: Walking to age 3
10:40 to 11:15 a.m.

Hand-eye coordination, colors, motor skills and exploration emphasized during lessons on the balance beam, bars, tumbling and vaulting.

PRESCHOOL: Ages 3-5

10-10:35 a.m., 4:30-5:05 p.m., 6-6:35 p.m.

Learn letters and positive words while growing skills in tumbling, vault, beam and bars.

SCHOOL AGE: Ages 5-12

3:45-4:30 p.m., 5:15-6 p.m., 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Develop fitness, character and self-esteem at an individual pace in a safe setting.

SESSIONS: Tuesdays, **APRIL 9-MAY 14**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$47 residents / \$52 nonresidents

MOTHER-SON SAFARI NIGHT

Mothers and sons - ages 4-12 - are invited for an evening of safari adventure. The night includes safari-themed activities and a live animal show by Animal Quest.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Friday, **APRIL 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$30 residents/ \$35 nonresidents per couple, \$15/\$17.50 each additional son.

HIGH-LOW AEROBICS

This unique cardiovascular dance-style aerobics builds energy while shaping your body, increasing flexibility and toning muscles with hand weights and various exercises.

WHEN: 6:10-6:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, **APRIL 16-MAY 23**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

2X/WEEK: \$44 residents/ \$48 nonresidents

1X/WEEK: \$24 residents/ \$26 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$8 residents/ \$9 nonresidents

KICKAROO KARATE KIDS

A fun, non-contact program that inspires self-esteem, builds character and prepares young children - ages 3-5 - to face life's challenges. There are no elements of sparring or practicing against one another. Dress comfortably.

WHEN: 3:15-3:50 p.m. or 4-4:35 p.m. Mondays, **APRIL 22-JUNE 3**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$47 residents / \$52 nonresidents

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home to show your products? Rent a booth at our **MAY 18** garage sale and comic show. Vendor fees are \$33 for 10' x 10' interior space and \$54 for 23' x 6' wall booth.

INFO: For more info on our classes and events, visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.



Easter Bunny Breakfast

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast. The event features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny. Continental breakfast includes: donuts, granola bar or Rice Krispie treat, bananas, grapes, milk, juice, coffee. Children receive a McDonalds coupon and pinwheel.

WHEN: Saturday, April 13

SEATINGS: 8:30 and 10 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High School cafeteria

TICKETS: \$6 and must be purchased in advance at Lincoln Center, the chamber, Centier or First Financial banks. Order tickets online at highlandgriffithchamber.com/payment

For more information: Call (219) 923-3666 or visit highlandgriffithchamber.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Park for the 13th annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 1 to 10 are invited to hunt for filled eggs until the last egg is found! DJ music and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be part of the day's activities.

WHEN: 9-11 a.m. April 13

WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion

INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331